

ADRA UKRAINE
NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2024





Interview

"Any support from fellow citizens is very important" - how a charity concert helped residents of Kherson Region survive the winter

A charity concert dedicated to the 30th anniversary of ADRA Ukraine was one of the events organized by ADRA Ukraine to help Ukrainians in the frontline areas survive the winter. On December 2nd last year, special guests People's Artists of Ukraine Oksana Bilozir and Viktor Pavlik, as well as other performers and a chamber choir, presented their art to about 700 visitors at the Left Bank Spiritual Center in Kyiv. During the event, representatives of ADRA Ukraine spoke about the humanitarian aid that Ukrainians are currently receiving from the organization. The funds raised through the concert were used to purchase firewood for residents of the Kherson Region affected by the war. The charity project was implemented jointly with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Region. Serhii Stepaniuk, Head of PR at ADRA Ukraine, tells more about the project's idea and results.

— Serhii, how did you come up with the idea to hold such a charity event?

— When we were celebrating the 30th anniversary of ADRA Ukraine and planning a concert dedicated to this event, we decided to do it in the charity fundraising format. We wanted to help people affected by the war. So we turned to our volunteers from the Adventist Church and told them about the needs of people for whom we could raise these funds. The leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern region offered to buy firewood for the Kherson Region. The church has volunteers who are constantly visiting the affected people, helping to dry the houses that were flooded as a result of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant explosion, and delivering humanitarian aid. They knew that in winter, the residents of Kherson and Kherson Region really need firewood. First

of all, the entire infrastructure there was destroyed. So they could heat their homes only with stoves. Moreover, they couldn't collect firewood, for example, in the nearest forest belts because everything was contaminated with landmines. People were simply afraid to go to the woods to collect firewood. Accordingly, they had to buy it, and this required money. So we decided to collect donations through the charity concert to buy this firewood and deliver it to the people of Kherson Region to help them survive the winter.

— *Is the format of charity concerts traditional for ADRA Ukraine, or is it, let's say, something new, a unique event?*

— I've joined ADRA Ukraine's team relatively recently, so I may not know everything, but I don't recall any large-scale concerts organized by our agency in Ukraine. However, I do know that abroad, in some European cities, similar charity events are periodically held to raise funds to help certain people in need. In Ukraine, at least since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, there have been no such concerts. So we decided to try this format and, as practice has shown, the result was quite good.

— *How exactly was the fundraising done?*

— The concert was held in the Left Bank Spiritual Center in Kyiv, and the event was attended by about 700 people. The entrance was free, but during the concert, some fundraising activities were held to support our beneficiaries. People could donate money in cash, or they could use the QR code and remit money online by a wire transfer. After the concert, a charity fair was held in the small hall of the Left Bank Spiritual Center. The children of congregation who attend this church, teenagers from the Pathfinder club, together with their parents, baked goodies and sold them at the fair, and the proceeds were used for the same charitable purpose. On the day of the concert, 110 thousand hryvnias were raised online and in cash, along with the money from the fair. But the concert was also broadcast online, it could be viewed on YouTube and Facebook (at the moment, I think there are about five and a half thousand views on YouTube, and another four and a half thousand views on Facebook). Accordingly, after the concert, people watched the recording and continued to donate for at least a month after the event. The total amount of donations we received was 162,800 UAH, and we handed over these money to the Adventist Church in the Southern Region. Thanks to these funds, the church purchased 22 tons of fuel briquettes made from sunflower husks and distributed them to 50 households in the private sector in Kherson and the surrounding areas. In particular, these are the villages of Andriyivka, Antonivka, 1st and 2nd districts, where the centralized gas supply system was damaged in the shellfire. In addition to briquettes, volunteers distributed brochures on psychological assistance.

— *How did the beneficiaries respond to it?*

— They were sincerely grateful. They were pleased by the fact that the funds were raised by Ukrainians themselves, that Kherson residents could feel support of people from Kyiv and other cities. Since Kherson residents very exhausted by the constant fighting, any support from their fellow citizens was very important to them.



30th anniversary of ADRA Ukraine charitable concert



One of the residents of Kherson who received help

— *Organizing a large-scale concert is not an easy task. In addition to raising money for a good cause, what other goals did you have in mind when arranging this show?*

— Our goal was not only to raise funds. We had several goals in mind. One of them was to present ADRA Ukraine's activities to the church, which actually founded our organization. We also used this chance to promote our communications with non-church actors, because ADRA's mission is to serve the whole society in general, any people in need.

— *How did famous artists who performed at the concert - Oksana Bilozir and Viktor Pavlik - perceived this project?*

— To begin with, since I used to work on television and had certain contacts with many famous people in Ukraine. Although we were not close friends, but I had quite good relationship with both Oksana Bilozir and Viktor Pavlik. We sometimes messaged each other and had some conversations on social media. And so, when I invited them to participate in such an event, they gladly agreed, because they knew who I was, they trusted me to a certain extent. Since we asked them to sing Christian songs, and they were believers themselves, they were actually pleased to do it. It was a great opportunity for them, because they usually sing at various social events, where there is a demand for a slightly different repertoire. At the same time, both Viktor Pavlik and Oksana Bilozir were actively engaged in volunteer work and were aware of the existing humanitarian issues, so they gladly agreed to support our concert by taking part in it.

— *Are you planning to similar concerts in the future, to develop this charity event format?*

— We have received quite a lot of positive feedback after this concert, and we realized that such events are well received by the audience, both those coming offline and those watching online. So, of course, we will continue this practice, because it is interesting and efficient. We can use this format to support some projects, help people in need. Therefore, we are planning another similar concerts with other participants in May this year, but more information about it will be available later. There are plans to hold such events periodically, at least twice a year. Of course, it's very difficult to plan things in advance under the current circumstances, but we already have some ideas. In addition to the May one, we would also like to organize a concert at the end of the year, for example, in early December, when Ukraine celebrates the Day of Charity. Perhaps we will focus not only on concerts but also on other social events that we can use to help other people. We will develop this idea and try to be creative to do our charity work in the best possible way.



Fuel briquettes for the residents of Kherson, purchased with money, collected at the concert



HIGHLIGHT

Ombudsman's Office will cooperate with ADRA Ukraine to help Ukrainians affected by war

On February 7, the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Ukraine (ADRA Ukraine). The MoU provides for consolidation of efforts to protect the rights and liberties of citizens and provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainians affected by the war.

ADRA Ukraine is a part of the international ADRA network, which supports vulnerable populations in over 130 countries. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, ADRA Ukraine, with the support of its international partners, has been providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced persons, orphans, children from orphanages and shelters, hospital patients, people with disabilities, and elderly people, including people in the frontline areas. Our organization helps with evacuation, provides food, financial, psychological, legal and other types of assistance.

“Ukrainians are going through a difficult period in their lives and need support, so we will cooperate to be more helpful to people,” the Ombudsman’s Office says.

08/02/2024

See on the website:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/ombudsmans-office-will-cooperate-with-adra-ukraine-to-help-ukrainians-affected-by-war>



HIGHLIGHT

A territorial center employee – ADRA Ukraine and WFP volunteer a volunteer – was injured in a drone attack in Beryslav

On February 6, a 55-year-old accountant of the territorial social assistance center in Beryslav, Kherson Region, who also volunteers for a humanitarian project run by ADRA Ukraine with the support of [the World Food Program \(WFP\)](#), was injured, when the center was attacked by a drone. In the morning, at around 9:00 a.m., Russian drones dropped three munitions into the territorial center yard. The center's employee who was in the yard suffered blast trauma and injuries to her limbs. She is currently in hospital, her condition is moderate but stable.

The center's territory was also used a storage site for WFP food kits intended for local population. The humanitarian goods were not damaged.

08/02/2024

See on the website:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/as-a-result-of-a-drone-attack-in-beryslav-an-employee-of-the-territorial-center-a-volunteer-of-adra-ukraine-and-the-un-wfp-was-injured>



HIGHLIGHT

Households in four villages of Zaporizhzhia Region have received construction materials from ADRA Ukraine

On February 21, ADRA Ukraine delivered the first batch of construction materials to the Novooleksandrivska community in Zaporizhzhia Region. The aid, provided with the support of [ADRA Network](#), is intended for 50 households located in the villages of Zaporozhets, Yulivka, Veselyanka, and Hryhorivka. The second batch of the construction materials is expected to be delivered next week, after which the project team will start distributing the aid to the affected beneficiaries.

These settlements suffered the greatest destruction of both the residential districts and public property during active hostilities waged in the community. Today, ADRA Ukraine is the only organization that provides assistance in the restoration of housing in these locations. In total, about 230 households were destroyed in these settlements were destroyed.

23/02/2024

See on the website:

<https://www.adra.ua/en/households-in-four-villages-of-zaporizhzhia-region-have-received-construction-materials-from-adra-ukraine>



HIGHLIGHT

ADRA Ukraine distributed household items to people in need in Kherson Region and Dnipro, as well as donated NFI assistance to hospitals in several regions

A project supported by [ADRA Slovakia](#) and [ADRA Japan](#), under which two trucks of non-food aid were distributed to the war-affected population in the Mylivka community of Kherson Region in February alone, is coming to an end. The humanitarian aid was distributed to around 200 beneficiaries living in the most affected communities located in de-occupied territories and in the immediate vicinity to the frontline. The shelter in Dnipro, founded by Charitable Foundation "Assistance and Development" (where 120 IDPs live), has also received assistance. In addition, hospitals in several regions received a stock of an synthetics donated by ADRA Czech Republic.

In total, this assistance package included: 14 Ekonomik LUX ovens, 42 ELEGANT ovens, 5 beds, 19 automatic washing machines, 5 gas stoves, 65 microwave ovens, 23 refrigerators, one used refrigerator, 2 sets of kitchen utensils, and 101 boxes of Sterillium antiseptics.



Success Story

Maryna Dubanovska
Sydorove, Donetsk Region

This winter, many people in Ukraine have experienced problems with heating. Those who live in small villages are even more so. It is not easy to stock up on firewood, as it is not cheap. This was the problem Marina Volodymyrivna faced and turned to us for help.

"The girls told us about ADRA," she says, referring to her friends. It was they who told her that she could receive humanitarian aid and even fuel briquettes from the charitable organization.

"I think I will survive the winter now," Marina Vladimirovna expresses hope.

After applying for help, the woman soon received fuel briquettes, thanks to which she will be able to heat the stove all winter.

"Thank you so much [ADRA International](#) for keeping us warm." The woman is very grateful to everyone who is behind this assistance.



Success Story

Lidiia Pavlykova
Maiaki village, Sviatohirsk Community, Donetsk Region

"I've received my retirement benefit and need to travel to do shopping. The key thing for me is to get to the pharmacy," Lidiia says.

Many elderly suffer from various medical conditions and vitally depend on the medicines.

"There is no pharmacy in our village," the woman explains.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to get medicines in the village of Maiaki, where Lidiia Vasylivna lives. Therefore, she has to travel to the neighboring town to buy them. Since there is no public transportation in the village, the social bus service offered by ADRA Ukraine with the support of [the Government of Canada](#) is the only way for her to provide herself with medicines.

"The drivers are very nice", the woman says expressing her satisfaction with the service. "They treat every passenger with respect and care".

Lidiia is sincerely grateful for this help.



Success Story

Nadiia Dmytrivna
Ochakiv, Mykolaiv region

"My children offered me to leave. I'm insulin-dependent, sick, after surgery, so I didn't go anywhere," Nadia says.

Unfortunately, many people in Ukraine are going through difficult times. Not everyone is able to leave for a safe place, and the problem is not always even money. Sometimes people simply have health problems and cannot live alone.

"Retirement benefits are small," the woman explains. After February 24, 2022, prices have risen dramatically, so she can barely afford the most essential items. Of course, she has to deny herself a lot of things.

"We are grateful to the people who help us," Nadiia says having received a food kit from [the UN World Food Program](#) with the support of [ADRA Switzerland](#). This kit will help her avoid spending money on food, since now she has enough food for a month. The woman is sincerely grateful to everyone behind this project.



More news

Over five and a half million hryvnias were donated by ADRA Ukraine to support Chernivtsi Shelter "City of Goodness"

01/02/2024

Over 4 thousand people in Sviatohirsk community have used free social transport from ADRA Ukraine

05/02/2024

Residents of a village in Kherson region have received food kits and bread from the UN World Food Programme

15/02/2024

Residents of a shelter in Ivano-Frankivsk region received free legal aid from ADRA Ukraine

16/02/2024

IDPs living in a shelter in the city of Kamianka will be warmed by fuel briquettes from ADRA Ukraine

20/02/2024

ADRA Ukraine delivered fuel briquettes to the IDP shelter in Dnipro

22/02/2024

ADRA Ukraine's Protection Center in Kyiv provides free services to residents of the city and region

23/02/2024

People in need in Kharkiv region have received food kits and bread from the UN World Food Programme

26/02/2024

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